

I CLAIM:

1. An assistive-listening system for use with sound-producing equipment, the sound-producing equipment including a signal source and first and
5 second sound sources operatively associated with the signal source and configured to produce sound corresponding to signals received from the signal source, the assistive-listening system comprising:

10 a volume control operatively associated with the signal source and configured to proportionally change the volume of both the first and second sound sources; and

15 a support structure configured to support and position the second sound source so that a hearing-impaired listener may listen effectively to sound controlled by the volume control without disturbing normal-hearing listeners.

2. The assistive-listening system of claim 1, wherein the support structure positions the second sound source such that it is closer to the hearing-impaired listener than the first sound source.

3. The assistive-listening system of claim 1, wherein the support structure positions the second sound source generally above the hearing-impaired listener's head, such that sound is directed generally downward onto the hearing-impaired listener.

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4. The assistive-listening system of claim 3, wherein the second sound source is positioned within six inches of the hearing-impaired listener's head without touching the hearing-impaired listener's head.

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5. The assistive-listening system of claim 1, further comprising a second volume control configured to change the volume of the second sound source without affecting the volume of the first sound source.

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6. A method of assistive-listening for use with sound-producing equipment for listeners, the sound-producing equipment including a signal source and first and second sound sources operatively associated with the signal source and configured to produce sound corresponding to signals received from the signal source, the method comprising:

providing the first sound source for normal-hearing listeners;

providing the second sound source for a hearing-impaired listener, where the second sound source is positioned closer to the hearing-impaired listener than the first sound source;

providing a volume control operatively associated with the signal source and configured to proportionally change the volume of both the first and second sound sources; and

where the second sound source permits the hearing-impaired listener to listen effectively to sound controlled by the volume control without disturbing normal-hearing listeners.